

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 175

By Lynn

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Patricia Baxter upon her meritorious tenure as Ms. Tennessee Senior America 2012.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected Representatives of the State of Tennessee should pay tribute to those exemplary citizens who have distinguished themselves as superlative Ambassadors for the Volunteer State; and

WHEREAS, Patricia Baxter of Mt. Juliet, Tennessee is most assuredly one such outstanding public servant deserving of special recognition; and

WHEREAS, Patricia Baxter has served with acumen and integrity as Ms. Tennessee Senior America for 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Ms. Senior America Pageant, with which Ms. Tennessee Senior America is associated, is the world's foremost pageant to emphasize and give honor to women who have reached the "Age of Elegance"; it is also a search for the gracious lady who best exemplifies the dignity, maturity, and inner beauty of all Senior Americans; and

WHEREAS, Patricia Baxter truly personifies the pageant's philosophy that seniors are the foundation of America, as well as being our most valuable treasure, and that it is upon their knowledge, experience, and resources that the younger generation has the opportunity to build a better society; and

WHEREAS, Patricia Baxter is a remarkable lady whose positive philosophy of life statement permeates every aspect of her: "Growing older (as I like to say, 'becoming vintage'), can be a lot of fun, especially if a person is willing to try new things."; and

WHEREAS, a few years ago, Mrs. Baxter began stepping out of her comfort zone; performing as a singer and enjoying painting and ballroom dancing; she relocated from

Arkansas to the State of Tennessee, embracing the idea that life is exciting at any age if a person is willing to embrace change; and

WHEREAS, while attending Arkansas State University, Mrs. Baxter became a member of the Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority and served as its treasurer; sang with the Madrigal Singers; and graduated in three years with not only a degree but also a husband, Carter Baxter, to whom she has been happily married for forty-six years; he has been her greatest blessing and “the wind beneath her wings”; she earned a Bachelor of Science in Education and taught English and social studies in Missouri and Arkansas for thirty-seven and a half years before retiring in 2007; and

WHEREAS, Pat Baxter is a lady of unwavering purpose and commitment; she and her husband reside at Del Web at Lake Providence in Mt. Juliet and are the parents of two children, Dionne and Bret, whom they consider their best friends; their precious grandchildren, extended family, and friends bring joy to their lives; God has been good to Mrs. Baxter and she thanks Him for all the blessings she has enjoyed throughout her life; and

WHEREAS, Patricia is an elegant lady who has won the admiration of her peers and critics alike by singing in the Baptist Church choir, teaching college and adult Sunday School classes, serving as an adult department director, and singing solos; Pat became interested in interior design and art and has become a self-taught artist; she and her sister-in-law also started a singing group and performed at local events, and three years ago, with her husband urging her, she started performing as a soloist specializing in jazz, blues, country, and easy-listening classics; and

WHEREAS, her many accolades and accomplishments aside, Pat Baxter finds opportunities for performing at nursing homes and assisted living facilities, while allowing time for the Del Web Women’s Club, Wilson ONE, Del Webb Singers, and Red Hat Society; and

WHEREAS, the Lebanon Wilson County Chamber of Commerce sponsored Mrs. Baxter as “Ms. Wilson County 2011” to “Ms. Tennessee Senior America 2012”; upon winning the state competition, the Lebanon Wilson County Chamber of Commerce sponsored Pat to the National

pageant and the Ms. Tennessee Senior America Pageant awarded Pat an all-expense-paid trip to the National Ms. Senior America Pageant in Atlantic City, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Pat Baxter, an exceptional lady, who believes strongly in reaching for the stars and helping others to be passionately engaged in life, but who is also firmly grounded in family values, service to others, and the joys of everyday life; is truly a worthy representative and accomplished ambassador for Tennessee, and she should be especially honored; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Patricia Baxter upon her meritorious tenure as Ms. Tennessee Senior America 2012, applaud her positive outlook on life and her stalwart commitment to God, family, and community and extend to her our best wishes for every continued success in future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.